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serious rural problems. He is also correct in his conclusion that the cityward vision of the average small town is lessening its usefulness in its natural environment; and that the largest hope for rural progress lies in the development of the small town as a part of its agricultural environment instead of a separate small city entity.

In its wealth of suggestion as to little town conditions and in its fulness of presentation of methods of improvement the text is a valuable addition to the literature of rural life.

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Rural Reconstruction in Ireland: a Record of Co-operative Organization. By LIONEL SMITH-GORDON, M.A. (Oxon.), and LAURENCE C. STAPLES, A.M.; with Preface by GEORGE W. RUSSELL ("A.E."). New Haven: Yale University Press, 1919. Pp. 301. \$3.00.

As George W. Russell ("A.E."—editor of the *Irish Homestead*), himself one of the leaders of Irish agriculture, says in the first sentence of his appreciative preface: "This volume contains the most complete and accurate history of a movement which has come to be of the highest importance to Ireland." The relation of this economic movement to rural social progress in Ireland is the authors' theme, and is well interpreted by "A.E." as he continues: "It has in it the promise of a more real unity among Irish people than has before seemed possible. The unity of a people may be brought about by acceptance of common religious, cultural, or political ideals, but it is doubtful whether that unity can be made real by any of these unless at the same time there is an identity of economic interest among the majority of the citizens." This thesis has increased sociological interest because it is also being voiced by many trade-union leaders.

Every American interested in rural organization will find this book an invaluable history of Irish rural reconstruction during the past generation. The account is the more valuable because it not only frankly points out the failures and shortcomings of the movement and incisively analyzes their causes, but it is not content to evaluate the movement in mere terms of profits or volume of business, although these are its primary objectives. The authors see the co-operative movement as the most important force for socialization because it makes the most immediate and practical appeal to men of all parties and sects and establishes a business system which develops the community attitude. "The present individualist system which takes care of the

business interests of the farmer is a dividing and disintegrating force. It tends to destroy the natural associative character and to set each man against his neighbor. . . . But as a member of a society with interests in common with others, the individual consciously and unconsciously develops the social virtues. . . . The society is in miniature a community, and the community is but a part of the larger social group." "The dividing facts of life are being relegated to their true position by the realization of the community of interest in the economic sphere."

The history of co-operative agricultural organization in Ireland, as described by the authors, very clearly shows the fundamental differences between co-operative producers' and co-operative consumers' enterprises, and of the failure of the former to secure the full benefit of their associations through lack of co-operation in marketing their products. They hold that if the Irish Agricultural Wholesale Society could command the loyal support of the co-operative societies of the Irish producers on the one hand, and of the great English and Scotch co-operative associations of consumers, on the other, the wholesale society might be of benefit to both in a truly co-operative system.

The economic and social conditions, land legislation in Ireland, the history, ideals, and principles of the Irish co-operative movement, the structure, methods, and finances of the Irish Agricultural Organization Society, and its differences with the Department of Agriculture and technical instruction of the government, are fully discussed. Detailed accounts are given of the co-operative creameries, various forms of co-operative agricultural societies, credit societies, and home industries. The fullest available statistics of the whole movement are given in the appendixes. The relation of industrial (or consumers') co-operation to the agricultural movement is carefully analyzed.

But it is the authors' clear evaluation of the economic results of co-operation as related to its social and educational influence which will most interest the sociologist. The authors are keenly aware of the failures and difficulties of the co-operative movement; yet, withal, they see in it the economic method of socialization through which agriculture can meet the conditions of the modern business world and develop a more satisfying life for those on the land; a method which avoids the evils both of individualistic capitalism and of state socialism, while it encourages individual and collective initiative and promotes social integration.

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